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PRE-GENEVA CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS - X

Soviet press comments on American policy statements regarding Indochina: Soviet media are placing unusually heavy emphasis on charges of United States aggression in Indochina, and on America's anti-Chinese attitude. The United States is charged with seeking a pretext for "internationalizing" the war in Indochina. The Soviet press has revealed particular sensitivity to charges of Chinese intervention and has attempted to refute them by quoting a French high command spokesman in Indochina who said that the French did not inform the United States that a Chinese Communist general is serving with the Viet Minh. The Moscow press also insists that it is not China but the United States which is "actively participating in aggression against Indochina."

Pravda charges that the United States objective in Indochina is to establish a "military bridgehead" directly on China's frontiers from which an invasion of China could be undertaken. This objective, says Pravda, shows that Dulles' appeal for "united action" means the "intervention of the United States and her allies on the Korean pattern."

The Soviet press has so far avoided threats of Communist counteraction except to say that "apparently the results of internationalizing the Korean war are not convincing enough for Dulles" and that a "repetition of the 'Korean variant' in Indochina would end in the defeat of the aggressors." Pravda also employed the familiar device of quoting foreign reaction by citing a statement of the Philippines foreign minister that the Dulles plan "could lead to another world war."

Apart from these references to the Korean action, the Soviet press has shown considerable caution and uncertainty about American intentions in Indochina. Pravda hopefully reported that international reaction to Dulles' appeal shows that at the moment "it is impossible even to think of submitting the question of intervention in Indochina to the United Nations." Another article declared that "the Indochinese people are fighting to avert the grave danger to general peace represented by the attempts...to fan the war conflagration in Indochina."

State Dept. review completed

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French non-Communist press reaction to "united action" proposal: The non-Communist French press now generally sees Secretary Dulles' consultation with London and Paris on the "united action" proposal as leading to a strong western position for the Geneva conference. While newspapers continue to emphasize France's opposition to anything that might limit the chances of a peaceful settlement at Geneva they now play up the consultative nature of Dulles' visit which will ensure the "necessary unity of views of the West."

Laniel told the National Assembly on 9 April that French Indochina policy rests on two main points: a continuation of every effort to achieve victory at Dien Bien Phu and elsewhere with material aid from the United States, and "to take up under full liberty of action the negotiations at Geneva with the intention of arriving at a solution." His statement received strong support from all non-Communist members of the Assembly.

Peiping, Pyongyang continue to avoid basic Korean issues: Peiping and Pyongyang radios continue to avoid the basic questions involved in a Korean settlement and to denounce American efforts to "turn Geneva into another Panmunjom." A Peiping commentator last week reiterated that a Korean solution must envisage the creation of a "democratic, united, and independent" Korea, with the Korean people given a chance to "settle their own questions by themselves."

People's Daily has again charged that, as a part of America's long-range plan of aggression in Asia and in line with the immediate United States effort to scuttle the Geneva parley, a further build-up of South Korean forces is taking place. A Pyongyang broadcast of 12 April noted that the recent establishment of the South Korean First Field Army "facilitates a northward advance" by President Rhee's troops "without the consent of the United Nations."

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